

# Band 101

Welcome to the Sound and Spirit of Columbus Band family!

If you signed up for Band but aren't sure what all is involved and would like to know more about what you should expect, then you have come to the right place!

## The life cycle of the Marching Band

The directors start working on the new season almost right as we close last season, so they have already had many hours and contacts with music and movement (drill & choreography) and props.

### April

April brings the tough selection process for our Drum Majors and hints of our show theme! We also have the election of our new board boosters.

### May

We then officially kick off our band season with a Parent Meeting at the beginning of May and kids start after school practices. We kick off with a fundraiser and our Spirit Wear fundraiser. We get to see how many kids are interested and the band starts to take shape. We ask for parents to register their kids so we can start all the planning for the season.

### June & the start of July

Rest up, keep playing your instrument, get with your section and start forming friendships through activities. Payment 1 for June is due. As a fundraiser, we are invited to work at the Kiwanis chicken booth, and we work for the fair office selling tickets for the grandstands.

### July

Payment 2 is now due. We have a few "pick up" practices in the evenings to get the kids back to picking up their instruments and playing and we get them out on the field to show them a little of what band camp will look like. **BAND CAMP**- This is a lot for most new kids, so we try to prepare them with our list of survival gear. We always have a certified first aid volunteer for both weeks to ensure our kids safety. Our school has offered the students free breakfast for both weeks of band camp and free lunch for the first week! The first week the kids can have lunch brought to them or can go off campus for lunch and we try to have the kids form friendships through lunch down time. Every night after band camp, we offer the kids popsicles to cool off and enjoy for all the hard work they did. The second week is the week that the boosters jump in and provide lunch and dinner for the students, so be looking for food and volunteer signups. Because the days are longer, the kids get a break in the hot afternoon to cool off in the pool for a few hours (with a certified lifeguard on duty). Some use this time to

build friendships, read a book, practice what they have learned, and some just take a nap! On Wednesday we offer the kids to stay later and enjoy an Ice Cream Social with a DJ and time to just dance and have fun. Friday ends with the tradition of having the Fire Truck come and spray the kids down like a backyard sprinkler. We also have our cookout for lunch and offer snow cones from Sno Biz. It's a great way to end the 2 weeks of band camp.

## AUGUST

School has now started and with that comes our very busy season. Payment 3 is now due. In short, we have practice on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday after school with a game on Friday and either a mini-camp or a competition on Saturday. It may seem like a lot, but once you get in the routine, it goes by fast! Seniors will get their photos taken for the field banners, which each senior parent can purchase to keep after the season. Each Thursday before a game we get to come to the stadium to get a Parent Preview at 8:15pm to show you, as parents what the band has been working on and what the show looks like. \*\*We ask that you DO NOT share any pictures or videos online or via social media at this time, as we are still working on the show.\*\* After we have gone to our first competition, you can share any pictures you would like. We like to kick off our Parent Previews with a Party! We have a cookout with snow cones to enjoy. For fun, we have a bounce house for the kids, and the best part, is the directors get in the dunk tank! Football season has started, and we start our performances with the best part, the pregame and half time shows! Students will be asked to come early and get into uniform, and we march over to the field. We will play the pregame show and students will be put into the band section of the stands as we play for touch downs. We will line up to play the half time show and then they will get a break for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter to visit concessions, friends, or parents in the stands. Students will then meet back for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to finish the game and play the fight song at the end. Students will march back to the band room to return their uniform and hear instruction from our directors before being dismissed.

## September

We are now in full swing, and the show is really coming along. Kids and parents will be heard "singing" the music throughout the day! Payment 4 is due. We get our picture taken as a whole band, each section, and every kid for you to purchase a package. We kick off our Kiwanis "ducks" fundraiser! This fundraiser is the best for putting money toward your band fees as they typically give us 80% for the "ducks" sold. The Invitational is also this month. This is our biggest event, and we ask that everyone help volunteer and donate to this event. We are one of the first competitions for our class, and we get to be the host school. There are tons of places to help volunteer so please sign up when that comes out. For our competition season, we usually start the morning with a practice then we have Competition Lunches. Students love this part because they pick the theme for their section and work on planning a menu including plates and decorations. This year we have a Hospitality Crew that will help encourage the kids to pick the menu early so parents have time to purchase and make the items. This is the biggest pitch-in you will ever see! After students eat from their section's food, they go to the other sections to see what wonderful food they have. They even bring bags with them to take some with them on the bus to competition! Our Hospitality Crew will also make sure that each

section has someone signed up for Treat Bags. There are sign ups within the section for parents to make up a treat bag for each competition. While the kids like the treats, we also know that sometimes this bag is used as their dinner bag because of the timing of the competition, so try to throw in a few things that aren't sweets but kept light. When we travel to a competition, it is quite an undertaking as we have almost 200 students, all their instruments, flags, and equipment, all our pit instruments, and our props! We roll in with about 6 buses, our semi-trailer and several pickups pulling trailers! We have several Crews that go to work to make loading and unloading work quickly with safety in mind. Our Chaperone Crew, Pit Crew, Prop Crew, Spirit Crew, and our Medic all go with us to support the kids. It is the most exciting part of our season, and WE get to be a part of it!!

## October

We are continuing to add to our show and practice makes perfect! School lets out for Fall Break, but we press on with practices and performances. Our final payment is due. At the end of the month, we will have our annual Trunk or Treat event. This is a great time that the parents get to decorate the back of their vehicles with whatever theme they choose. There is a prize for the best costume (kids) and the best trunk (parents). Kids and parents have fun and go all out to make this night special.

## November

This month is our final month of the season. Hopefully we can go to State, or at least regionals, but this time is when we reflect on all that our kids have done. They put everything they have out on the field to strive for excellence. We end this time with a nice dinner for the Seniors and our award ceremony.

## December

You didn't think we could forget about the Festival of Lights Parade! We get to decorate our trailer and show off to all of Columbus what a great group of band kids we have!

You want more? We also have Winter Guard and Winter Percussion!